AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Process for purification of a compound comprising an activated carbon treatment using a filter unit containing activated carbon immobilized in a matrix, the treatment comprising:

a) passing a suitable volume of a feed containing the compound over a first series of n connected filter units operating in series to obtain an effluent, wherein n is at least two, said filter units having been assigned a position number 1 to n in the series and position number 1 being the first supplied with the feed,

b) disconnecting a filter unit from the first series of filter units at any position number between. 1 to n-1 after passing the suitable volume of feed, and connecting a fresh filter unit at any position that has a higher number than the position number of the disconnected filter unit, resulting in a next series of filter units,

c) passing a next suitable volume of feed containing the compound over the next series of filter units to obtain a next effluent,

d) optionally combining the effluents obtained in a and c, and

e) recovering the compound from the effluent.

2. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the filter unit is disconnected at position number between 1 to n-1 and wherein the fresh filter unit is connected at position number n+1.

3. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the filter unit is disconnected at position number 1 and wherein the fresh filter unit is connected at position number n+1.

4. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the number n of connected filter units operating in series is 2 to 10.

5. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the treatment is operated in batch, semi-continuous or continuous mode.

6. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the flow rate of the feed is 0.05 to 400 L/min, preferably 20 to 100 L/min, more preferably 30 to 40 L/min.

7. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the activated carbon immobilized in a matrix is in the form of a membrane sheet.

8. (original) The process according to claim 7, wherein the flux over the membrane sheet is 1 to 50 L/m2/min., preferably 1.5 to 20 L/m2/min., more preferably 1.5 to 10 L/m2/min.

9. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the residence time of the feed containing the compound in a single filter unit is at least 15 seconds and maximal 60 minutes.

10. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the process is operated at a temperature between minus °C to 40°C.

11. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one disconnected filter unit is regenerated *in situ* by rinsing with a solvent.

12. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound is an unstable compound.

13. (currently amended) The process according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 12, wherein the compound is a secondary metabolite or a protein.

14. (original) The process according to claim 13, wherein the secondary metabolite is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic, a vitamin, a carotenoid or a PUFA.

15. (currently amended) The process according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 12, wherein the compound is obtained by fermentation using a microorganism.

16. (original) The process according to claim 14, wherein the microorganism is a *Streptomyces* species.

17. (original) The process according to claim 15, wherein the *Streptomyces* species is selected from the group consisting of *S. clavuligerus*, *S. coelicolor*, *S. griseus*, *S. venezuela*, *S. jumonjinensis*, *S. katsurahamanus* or *S. aureofaciens*.

18. (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of clavulanic acid, streptomycin, chloramphenicol, tetracycline or ~~p3-carotene~~ β-carotene.

19. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of converting the compound into a pharmaceutical acceptable salt or food grade product.